

BY RANKIN &amp; LEVIN.

THURSDAY, FEB. 2, 1882.

The Albuquerque, N. M., Journal says: "After watching the proceedings of the Territorial legislature since it has commenced, this paper is prepared to state that twenty-five years hence will be time enough for a state government." This will be bad news for those who want an increase in the number of states.

The Houston Age, a paper that is noted for its sacred regard for the truth, says a load of seventeen sticks of wood was hauled to town by a team of fourteen oxen. It points a moral by saying: "The wood man probably wanted by a grand display of motive power to exaggerate the price of his wood."

Jno. T. Buchanan, state senator of Navasota, was taken sick last Thursday, with disease of the kidney resembling black jaundice and died on Sunday, aged thirty years. He was one of the brightest and most successful lawyers in his section of the state, and in criminal cases he had already established a brilliant reputation.

The board of directors of the A. and M. college will meet at Austin on the 6th of February. It is stated that they will arrange to continue the colored normal school. The governor has the matter under careful consideration with a view to holding the school intact. Offers to furnish the school with supplies are already on file.

The Austin Statesman referring to the application of special funds for other purposes says: "We are unalterable in our opinion that this disregard of special funds is at least thoughtless robbery," and it is believed that the legislature will regard such conduct in the same light and make proper restitution." The Statesman is correct in its views.

In West Deer township, Pennsylvania, a young man while out hunting met two young ladies acquaintances and shot both wounding them seriously. They managed to reach home and a posse started out to capture Lee, who when he found escape impossible blew the top of his head off with his shot gun. No explanation can be given.

The Galveston News says that the attempt to vitiate the verdict in the Guitau case by trying to make it appear that four of the jurors had read the Critic, which contained matter relating to the trial and public opinion as to the guilt of the prisoner, has all the earmarks of a trick of the shyster family. Scoville may prove himself a first-class shyster after all.

A man named Snyder has been found who is willing to swear that he saw a newspaper in the possession of the Guitau jury while the trial was in progress and that he secured it. Upon this and other counts Scoville will make an effort to get a new trial. The people generally are very well satisfied with the result of the first one and have no desire for another.

The Houston Post of Tuesday devotes a lengthy leader to the subject of "Internal Improvements," in which it takes strong grounds in favor of having the streets in the cities paved and the roads in the country put in a condition to be passable at all seasons of the year. Such improvements are much needed, but it will be soon time before they are accomplished.

Maryland and West Virginia have an unsettled dispute of long standing, involving the right to half a million acres of fertile land. Charles H. made a grant in 1660 of a large tract "bounded on the north by the Potomac." There are two branches of the river, and the northern one was taken as the line, which became the boundary of the state; but Maryland has never given up her claim, and a new attempt is now being made to get the territory.

The Flatonia Argus says the present road law of Texas is a hump of the first magnitude and should be repealed at the coming extra session of the legislature, and a law enacted that will enable the people to open and maintain a system of public highways that will answer their purpose for all time. A public road once established should be as permanent as a street in a city; it should not be changed and moved at the whim or caprice of every land owner on it.

The New Orleans Times-Democrat says: It appears that the preference shown for many years by American breeders for red cattle is, after all, only a matter of sentiment. A writer in an exchange shows that in England the fancy has never prevailed and that in the prize shows in that country the roans and the red and white have always been awarded more premiums than the red. The large breeders in the west, it would seem, are beginning to realize that this senseless preference for red cattle has decreased the profit of the trade very seriously and have at last determined to be no longer bound by the unfortunate fashion.

## The Roads.

Since the beginning of January we have had wet weather, the rains have not been particularly heavy but continuous and penetrating; the ground is thoroughly saturated with moisture and the county roads in many places have literally no bottom that can be reached by ordinary wagon wheels. All the wagons in use in this country have very narrow tires, two inches being the average width. These narrow tires cut the soft roads very much and in addition there are many boggy places that are literally impassable. This condition of the roads is of annual recurrence; the roads get bad as regularly as the winter rains set in, and with equal regularity the people—in county and city alike—complain.

What to do with the roads is a problem that is rather hard to solve; in dry weather the roads are in good condition and then no thought of the future is given. There is a disposition in some quarters to blame the county commissioners; they really are not to blame; they, as required by our road law, divide the county into districts and appoint road overseers; the road districts are numerous, so are the overseers, each overseer is assigned only the hands in his particular district, and it frequently happens that a district having a very bad piece of bottom or boggy land has very few hands, too few to do the amount of work required. The road overseer gets no pay for his work and his neighbor—who is subject to road duty, take occasion to get mad at him when he asks them out to work. In repairing the roads little or no attention is paid to drainage and this is the one great secret of the bad condition of many of our county roads; they should be thrown up, ditched on each side and culverts put in where necessary; the boggy places usually have no drainage and they are the chief cause of the roads being impassable. At this season of the year, when an empty wagon can not be hauled, it is useless to talk about road-work, dry weather will accomplish it, but while people are in the notion of doing something, arrangements might be made for repairing the roads when the weather gets dry.

The real difficulty lies not so much with the road overseers as with the road law, which is the least unjust. Under the law every man between the ages of 18 and 45 years is subject to work on the roads ten days each year. Suppose a land owner has fifty tenants on his land that are subject to road duty, they are liable to ten days road service each year, which is equivalent to 500 days labor, or \$500 contributed by tenants, who are paying rent to the landlord, who in turn pays no road tax other than the ten days work, if he be under 45 years of age, otherwise he pays nothing. This is certainly unequal taxation, and if unequal taxation, the land owners as a matter of course favor the present road law, but the existing condition of the roads and bridges show it to be a failure. The road question should be thoroughly discussed by farmers and town people and the next legislature should be called upon to amend the law and devise some means by which the roads can be kept in some sort of repair at all seasons of the year.

New York had a very disastrous fire on Wednesday last. It broke out at ten o'clock in the morning and consumed most of the block on the corner of Park Row and Beekman street. Among the offices burned out were the Scientific American, New York Observer, Times and Farm, Thompson's bank note reporter and a number of weekly papers printed in foreign languages, also a number of newspaper advertising agencies. The upper floors were occupied by various manufacturing industries and the composing rooms of weekly newspapers employing women compositors. The progress of the flames was so rapid that the means of escape were cut off and it supposed that about fifteen persons perished in the flames. The pecuniary loss was very great.

The Flatonia Argus would support Hancock heartily should he receive the nomination for governor, but it says, he is not the man the rank and file the democracy wants for their candidate this year. They will insist upon a man for that position who embodies and will carry out the views of Ireland and Reagan upon certain matters of public policy which have, or will become the paramount questions of the future so far as our local state government is concerned. The Argus need not be alarmed, there is very little likelihood that Judge Hancock will become a gubernatorial candidate at the ensuing election.

The governor has pardoned McDaniel sent from Leon county for ten years for murder. The reasons are extreme youth, he being but 15 years of age when convicted and on account of a general belief that the killing was accidental.

## A New Departure.

The Galveston News, of the 1st inst., contains a leading editorial under the caption of "An Occasion for True Independence," in which it refers to a special from Sulphur Springs that says that the people of Hopkins county generally desire to see Governor Roberts become a candidate for re-election, and further that many think that Roberts is the greatest man since the days of Houston. The News assumes that the dispatch from Hopkins county is but a reflex of the general sentiment of the state. How the News arrives at this conclusion we are at a loss to understand; it is certain that the republicans and the green-backers do not favor Governor Roberts, and the fact is also that many, and it may be said very many democrats do not want him re-elected. Of the press of Texas comparatively few papers favor his re-election, and those that do are few in number and are not considered as leading papers in their respective neighborhoods. The Banner is fully aware that Governor Roberts has a great many warm friends and hosts of admirers throughout the state, and whilst it opposes his nomination it has never impugned his motives or questioned his honesty. The News thinks that there is a strong probability that Hon. George Washington Jones will lead in the independent or Jones movement and run as Jones' candidate for governor on his individual merits and such a platform as he may from time to time construct in his harangues or stump speeches to the sovereigns. Jones is a very plausible speaker and one who makes friends with the dear people. The News would have the Jones movement counteracted and it proposes to use the same medium; it suggests that inasmuch as Roberts already has the hearts of the people, that he lay aside conventionalities and also conventions and become one independent candidate for governor, simply on his record and on his merits, and that laying all politics aside he take the field and canvass the state in opposition to Jones, or to use a very homely expression fight the devil with fire. The object of the News is evidently to defeat the politicians, or as it terms them the machine. For our own part we prefer Roberts to Jones, but whether the movement suggested by the News can be successfully carried out is a question that time alone can settle. Again party usages have yet a strong hold on the hearts of the people and they will not willingly forego the ceremony of primary meetings, county conventions, the election and instruction of delegates and the state convention, all of which systems have been abused in the past and will be abused in the future. However, there is plenty of time to discuss the convention system hereafter.

There seems to be a disposition in some quarters to force the railroad question into the next campaign. It is claimed that railroad legislation is an imperative necessity and that the farmers are being ground to powder by the exactions of railroad monopolies. That railroad or any other monopoly is not a good thing for the general public will be admitted by all who are not personally interested in them, can not be denied. But that there is to-day any railroad monopolies in Texas is not so clear. The Central, the Santa Fe, the International, the Sunset, and the Narrow Gauge road from Texarkana to Waco, are all under separate managements; the Texas Pacific and the International are controlled by the Gould and Huntington syndicates. The Santa Fe railway has reduced passenger fare to four cents a mile; the Texas and St. Louis Narrow Gauge road to three cents, the other roads, if we are not mistaken, still adhere to the charter limit of five cents. It is thus clear that if there was a railway monopoly in this state, there would be no reduction in passenger fares unless it was universal throughout the state. While it is no doubt purpose to champion the cause of the railroads as against the people, we cannot see that railway legislation is desirable at this time; we want more railroads and more people in Texas, as the country becomes more densely populated, the produce of the farms is more abundant, more goods are required to supply the wants of the people, and the business of the railroads is correspondingly increased. Railroads must be operated in strictly pure business principles, and when the railroad managers are satisfied that their receipts and profits will be increased by a reduction in freight and passenger tariffs, they will certainly reduce them. On the other hand should adverse legislation be insisted on and carried out, the result would be a partial if not almost entire suspension of railway building. Again, should such legislation be attempted, it would be well for the people to bear in mind two indisputable facts: One, that the railroads have plenty of money, and the other that legislators have been bought by railroads. History, it is truthfully said, repeats itself. If legislators have been bought by railroads in the past, they can be bought in the future.

THE amount of state occupation taxes collected by the county collector for the year ending September 30, is \$307,983.

THE San Antonio Light, republican, says we want the constitution, as it now exists, overturned, and with it its authors.

ACCORDING to the San Antonio Light the reforming of the democratic party is a bigger job than reforming the public abuses.

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GOVERNOR ROBERTS is again laid up from the effects of vaccination. A good many persons in Austin are disabled from the same cause.

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CAPT. D. U. BARZIZA, a well known lawyer of Houston, died in that city on the 29th inst. He had served several terms in the legislature and was well known throughout the state.

THE Bonham News has some kind words for Hon. J. W. Throckmorton and thinks he would make a good governor. It has been announced that he will not be a candidate.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

NINETEEN states elect governors this year.

THE president has signed the deficiency appropriation bill.

MEMPHIS is to be the next city illuminated with the electric light.

REV. HENRY W. BELLOWES, D. D., a celebrated New York divine, is dead.

THE capitol contractors are making arrangements to bring their machinery to Austin.

FRIDAY next has been fixed as the day for hearing the motion for a new trial in the Guitau case.

It is stated that the track on the Missouri Pacific railroad is laid half way from Waco to Temple.

THE Calvert Courier will support the Jones movement in the coming campaign, so says the Navasota Tablet.

THE San Antonio Light refers to Mr. Willis, a merchant prince of Galveston, as the mossback merchant.

GOULD, Huntington, Sage, and Stanford have been elected directors of the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad.

THE Mexican Central Railway company has filed a resolution authorizing the increase of capital stock to \$10,000,000.

THE fire in the telegraph office at Houston cut the dispatches short in the Post and Galveston News, on Tuesday.

AN effort is to be made at Galveston to raise a subscription for the purpose of continuing Prairie View Normal School.

THE re-union of the Terry Rangers to take place at Galveston has been postponed till May 2d. Notices will be sent out.

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"THE Little Mesquite" is the name of a small patent inside weekly paper published at the town of Mesquite, Dallas county. The man who invented the name of that paper ought to have a cake.

It is asserted that the ghost—in full uniform of Alexander II. has been appearing night after night at the altar of the cathedral of St. Petersburg. The police have been ordered to go for him.

A GENERAL meeting of managers and general freight agents of Texas railroads has been called to meet in St. Louis. Action will probably be taken effecting general freight rates all over the state.

THE annual report of the Pullman Palace car company, show 2131 miles of railway traversed by their cars in this state on which the state tax is \$2 per mile. The company disputes the constitutionality of the tax.

THE Austin Statesman says that if all the subjects now being called to the attention of the governor are considered at the extra session of the legislature, the thirty days allowed by law will not half suffice.

THE Houston Age has a special contract with Texas Siftings for puff or complimentary notices. Siftings draws on the Age at the rate of one dollar per line. The Age does not state whether it pays the drafts or not.

ACCORDING to the Houston Post, the proud city of Houston is simply a stuck in the mud community. This is a bad predicament for the railroad center of the great southwest, and the future metropolis and seaport of Texas.

THERE seems to be a general desire on the part of the people and the press that the Prairie View Normal school should be kept up. The colored people of Texas should certainly be supplied with competent school teachers of their own race.

THE Austin and Central coal company have struck a third vein of cannel coal, seven and a half feet thick at their Rockdale mine. With moderate railroad tariffs central and southern Texas should have an abundant supply of cheap coal.

AT Temple the citizens are beginning to talk of incorporating. Although the town is not a year old they want to have all the outward show of a city. The Infant Wonder name long applied to Denison, has been appropriated by Temple.

THE Navasota Tablet gives full account of the killing of John Moeller, at Washington, by Lee Gee and it says: "Hutchinson took no precaution to secure the prisoner; in fact, he was allowed the largest liberty, being unattended by any officer after the sheriff took charge of him."

SOME years ago the death penalty was abolished in Maine, and since then the number of convictions for murder in the first degree has increased to such an alarming extent that there is serious talk of restoring the death penalty as the only means of checking the crime of murder.

JOHN HENRY BROWN, himself an old Texan, has a two column article in the Dallas Sunday Mercury in which he battles manfully in favor of the word "Texan" instead of "Texas."

HE regards the latter spelling as an innovation. It is an innovation it has become a very popular one.

NEAR Logansport, Indiana, last Saturday, a tramp who had committed an assault upon a lady at whose house he was given supper, was promptly captured by the neighbors, who made an example of him by hanging his body into a bonfire built for the purpose.

HAVING treated in extenso of Ex-Postmaster General James as "a liar and perjurer," the Washington organ of the Star Routers now devotes a column to him in his capacity as "Sneak Thief." If Mr. James can get a little assistance from the lawyers he will probably levy on that newspaper press.

THE criticism of the Critic approach the critical point.

WE regret to learn, through the Marshall Herald, that the Jefferson Democrat has been forced to suspend. Col. Loughey says he hopes the suspension will be only temporary; we hope so. The Democrat battled manfully for the interests of Jefferson and certainly deserved a better fate at the hands of the people of that town, who seem to have literally starved it out of existence. There is not a paper published in Texas that can live on subscriptions alone; it is advertising patronage that keeps up the paper and advertising is what the Democrat did not get. It is a sad comment on the business men of Jefferson.

"Pour oil on troubled waters" is an old recommendation; in the modern interpretation of the phrase we hear such expressions and advice as the following contained in the closing words of an article in the Boston Herald: During my jauntings around town I heard many remarks of a complimentary character in relation to the merits of St. Jacobs Oil, and one person said: "There's the venerable Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, our Ex-Vice President. He never wears an overcoat, and it is therefore the legitimate prey of rheumatism. If he wants to continue saving the expense of an overcoat, and at the same time escape rheumatism, such weather as this, he must invest fifty cents in a bottle of St. Jacobs Oil and lather himself with it right well. He will find it a cheap and serviceable overcoat to keep the rheumatism from his body."

THE Hon. Seth Shepard, formerly of Brenham, Texas, who has recently become a resident of Galveston, will depart for his Island City home to-day, accompanied by his bride, Miss Goree, of Alabama. Galveston gains a talented lawyer and a public-spirited citizen in Mr. Shepard, and Galveston society an accomplished addition in the person of his wife. We wish the happy couple every success in their new home. —N. O. Times-Democrat, Jan. 23.

Dr. Ditzler, who has been preaching sledge-hammer sermons at Weatherford and other towns, enjoys a little occasional fun and goes out hunting innocent but wily foxes.

## STATE NEWS.

At Temple there is not an unoccupied dwelling house.

Too much rain has fallen, is now the complaint from all parts of the state.

Several have died of pneumonia in the vicinity of La Grange this winter.

At Palestine the average daily attendance at the public school is two hundred.

At Marshall all business and improvements are at a standstill—bad weather the cause.

Grass in fine in the vicinity of Brackett and hay-cutting is going on to supply Fort Clark.

Farmers in the neighborhood of Temple are beginning to plant extensively of Nicaragua since.

Since Fayette county took charge of her paupers the cost of maintaining them has been greatly reduced.

Mr. B. Gerber, formerly of Brenham is building a number of stores at Temple; they will soon be ready for occupancy.

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## Scientific Miscellany.

The remarkable discovery has been made by two German chemists that the life principle is capable of producing chemical effect upon salts of silver. They report that living organic cells readily reduce solutions of silver, but the action ceases when dead cells are substituted for the living ones.

Insects are endowed with much greater muscular energy, in proportion to their size, than other animals. Had a man of six feet muscular power proportioned to that of a flea, he could leap more than three hundred feet, and lift a weight of ten thousand pounds. A species of beetle supports five hundred times its own weight; and another has been discovered which is stated, on good authority, to have gnawed a hole of an inch in diameter in the side of an iron canister by the powers of its jaws.

It has lately been noticed that liquors kept in colorless bottles exposed to the light soon acquire a disagreeable taste, while those contained in brown or green bottles remain unchanged even if placed in direct sunlight. The effect is due to the chemical action of light, and liquids liable to similar change should be preserved in red, orange, yellow or green bottles—these colors excluding the chemical rays.

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